

# Your Voice

Let me hear from you!

## Upcoming Meetings

**June 25, 2001**

Guest: King County  
Exec. Ron Sims  
Highline Community  
College, Building 2  
S. 240th & Pacific Hwy S.  
Des Moines  
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**July 17, 2001**

Guest: King County  
Assessor Scott Noble  
Federal Way Library  
848 S. 320th St.  
Federal Way  
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**July 31, 2001**

Guest: King County  
Sheriff Dave Reichert  
Federal Way Senior Center  
4016 S. 352nd St, Auburn  
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**September 2001**

Guest: King County  
Prosecutor Norm Maleng  
Date and Place to be  
Determined  
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

## Aquatic Center is Local and National Asset

The Weyerhaeuser-King County Aquatic Center construction began in October 1988, with a groundbreaking ceremony with Governor Booth Gardner, along with Bob Walsh, (Goodwill Games Seattle Organizing Committee President), Pete von Reichbauer, then a Washington State Senator, and David Sabey. Sabey's Berkley Construction and Engineering Company built the pool and Sabey offered it to the county at cost; moreover he later covered the extra costs, estimated at \$1.2 million to expand the seating from 1,700 to 2,500 so the center would be more suitable for public events. It took 16 months to complete.

The facility was built to be the host facility for all four aquatic sports of the 1990 Goodwill Games. The doors of the facility opened April 13<sup>th</sup> for the first pre-event practice day of the week long U.S., Synchronized Swimming National Championships. Public programs began on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The first day of the Goodwill Games was July 15<sup>th</sup> when at the first race, the men's 200 meter breast stroke was held.

The Weyerhaeuser-King County Aquatic Center is the second largest



*Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer (right) greeted Mark Ruiz, member of the 2000 US Olympic Diving Team and the Boys and Girls Club of Federal Way at the Aquatic Center.*

indoor aquatic center in the United States. It is a 93,000 square foot facility housing three pools: a competition pool 50 meters by 75 feet with two moveable bulkheads, a diving tank 58 feet by 75 feet and 17 feet deep, with five levels of platforms and two levels of springboards; and a warm-water recreational pool 75 feet by 42 feet with a large built-in ramp entry. There is a combined total of 1.5 million gallons of water in the three pools.

The Aquatic Center serves as a regional training complex for over 16 clubs in the competition sports of swimming, diving, water polo, synchronized swimming and masters swimming. The facility is also used for many national training camps and is used by the Australian and Japanese national teams for annual training trips. In 1996, the Aquatic Center hosted the USA Synchronized Swimming Olympic Team for 5 weeks of training prior to the team's double-gold, perfect score performance at the Atlanta Games.



*Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer is the current Chair of the Metropolitan King County Council.*

# Aquatic Center *continued*

In eight years, the Aquatic Center has hosted over 500 events. The competition pool and dive tank were built to international standards, and have all the finest features and equipment to enhance Olympic-class performances. In addition, ample room and amenities were provided for media coverage, including: television-ready lighting, an elevated camera platform, an underwater viewing tunnel, fiber optics service line, camera access portals, media work room and a press seating area for up to 72 people.

Some of the versatile events hosted at the Aquatic Center have included, the 1995 Chevrolet Indoor sailing Championships (17 foot, manned sailboats racing two-at-a-time over a figure “8” course using giant fans on the deck); a Bon Marche fashion show; the filming of two segments for the Bill Nye the Science Guy television show; a Korean television commercial for kitchen appliances, a film documentary of underwater ballet; and use as a testing

facility for single-manned, submersible ships.

In addition to being a training complex and event venue, the Aquatic Center offers the community a wide variety of recreational programs including: swimming & diving lessons, family swims, lap swims, senior swims, water exercise classes, birthday party rentals, meeting room rentals, SCUBA diving classes, American Red Cross safety training courses and special seasonal family events.

Use of the Aquatic Center has steadily increased since 1990. Last year, over 500,000 people visited the facility to partici-



*Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer (center) stands with some of the staff at the Aquatic Center on the 10 meter diving board.*

pate in team workouts, events and public programs. Last year a record 4,000 sessions of lessons were taught.



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